

Amendments To The Claims

1-6.(canceled)

7.(currently amended) An apparatus for estimating printer resources, said apparatus comprising:

a comparator configured and adapted to receive first and second values, said comparator further being adapted to compare said first value to said second value and to generate an output signal based on said comparison, wherein said first value represents a quantity of a printer resource needed to print a document and said second value represents an amount of said printer resource available at a printer;

a controller coupled to said comparator, said controller being configured and adapted to control said comparator and to generate a first control signal based on said output signal and a second control signal for causing said a printer to switch between a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation, said printer responding to a printer server while operating in said first mode and said printer responding only to a printer driver residing on a computer different from said printer server while operating in said second mode.

8.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus is disposed in a computer.

9.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus is coupled to a computer.

10.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said printer resource comprises paper.

11.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said printer resource comprises toner.

12.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said printer resource comprises ink.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION -2-

Serial No. 09/823,782  
Docket No. 10003779-1

PAGE 4/9 \* RCVD AT 8/16/2005 11:13:08 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EF/XRF-6/29 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:208 433 9295 \* DURATION (mm:ss):02:18

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13-32.(canceled)

33.(previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied in said medium that when executed causes a computer to:

compare a first value to a second value, said first value being an amount of a printer resource required to print a document, and said second value being an amount of said printer resource available at a printer;

generate a control signal based on said comparison; and

cause said printer to switch from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation when a print job assurance feature is selected, wherein said printer responds to a printer server while operating in said first mode and said printer responding only to a printer driver residing on a computer different from said printer server while operating in said second mode.

34.(canceled)

35.(original) The computer program product of claim 33 further comprising computer readable program code embodied in said medium that when executed causes said computer to:

cause said printer to switch from said second mode of operation to said first mode of operation after said document has been printed by said printer.

36-39.(canceled)

40.(previously presented) A method for estimating printer resources, comprising:

causing a printer to switch from a client server mode in which said printer performs tasks supplied by a print server to a direct printing mode in which said printer performs only tasks supplied directly by a computer different from said print server;

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION -3-

Serial No. 09/623,782  
Docket No. 10003779-1

PAGE 5/9 \* RCVD AT 8/16/2005 11:13:08 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXXRF-6/29 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:208 433 9295 \* DURATION (mm-ss):02:18

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comparing a first value to a second value, said first value representing an amount of a resource of said printer required to print a document and said second value representing an amount of said printer resource available at said printer;

causing said document to be printed if said second value is greater than said first value; and

generating an indication signal if said first value is greater than said second value, said indication signal alerting a user that said amount of said printer resource available at said printer is insufficient to print said document.

41.(previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising causing the printer to switch from the direct printing mode back to the client server mode.

42.(previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied in said medium that when executed causes a computer to:

cause a printer to switch from a client server mode in which said printer performs tasks supplied by a print server to a direct printing mode in which said printer performs only tasks supplied directly by a computer different from said print server;

compare a first value to a second value, said first value representing an amount of a resource of said printer required to print a document and said second value representing an amount of said printer resource available at said printer;

cause said document to be printed if said second value is greater than said first value; and

generate an indication signal if said first value is greater than said second value, said indication signal alerting a user that said amount of said printer resource available at said printer is insufficient to print said document.

43.(previously presented) The computer program product of claim 42 further comprising computer readable program code embodied in said medium that when executed causes said computer to cause the printer to switch from the direct printing mode back to the client server mode.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION -4-

Serial No. 09/823,782  
Docket No.10003779-1

PAGE 6/9 \* RCVD AT 8/16/2005 11:13:08 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFAXF-6/29 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:208 433 9295 \* DURATION (mm-ss):02:18

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